Group Interventions for LGBTI (Lesbian, Gay, Bi, Trans and Intersex) People using Alcohol & Other Drugs (AOD)

VAC

Garth Parkhill Team Leader Alcohol & Other Drug Services

What we know

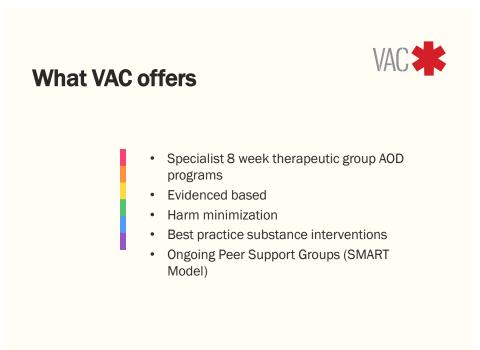
National and international research reports that:

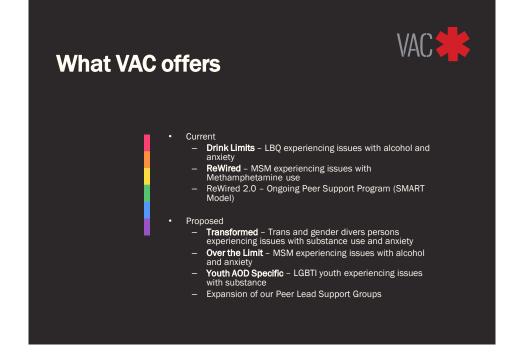
- MSM (Men who have sex with men) more likely to experience issues with recreational drug use than MSW (Stall et. al., 2001)
- LGB communities statistically significant elevated levels of use (Cochran et. al, 2004)
- Higher use of illicit drugs within the LGBTI population (Ritter et. al., 2012)
- 'Early adopters' (Measham et. al., 2011)
- Highest rates of alcohol use disorders found in lesbians and bi-sexual women (Grella et. al., 2009)
- Perceived stigma and a fear of judgment is a major barrier for LGBTI persons in accessing health services (Sexual Exclusion – Homophobia and health inequalities: a review, 2004)
- Problematic meth use for MSM most effectively addressed in a community setting (Shoptaw et. al., 2005)

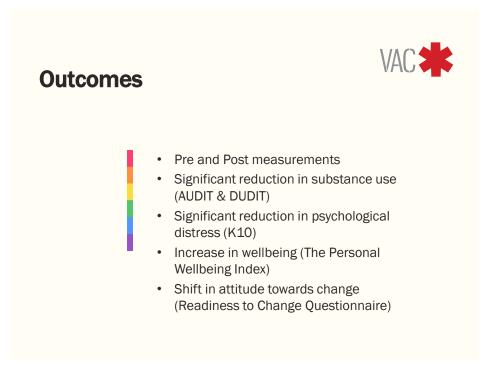


Major drug related harms

- Sexual health: including risk of exposure to HIV/STIs, adherence to medications including ARV's and PrEP
- Physical health: Impact on immune system, interaction with medication.
- AOD dependency: developing problematic levels of use
- Mental health: Drug related psychosis, anxiety, depression
- Financial, housing, employment, relationships and all other risks experience by broader populations







Conclusion



- Participants stated that accessing an LGBTI community delivered service allowed them to be more open and share without fear of judgement thus helping them achieve their goals
- Program success reinforces the need for specialist programs for vulnerable, minority groups

On behalf of VAC

Thank you.

Questions?

Garth Parkhill Team Leader AOD Services

